# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION October 26, 2011, 4:30p.m. Council Chambers

PRESENT	ABSENT
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Ian Kohen
Greg Lewis
Gil Palmer
Rosalind Pegram
John Roberts
Trena Carter
Tony McClendon

Andrae Marak

Rhea Baker-Ipek John Stroh Shiva Rallapalli

# Meeting Called to Order at 4:43pm

New Commissioner Andrae Marak was introduced. Commissioner Marak gave the commissioners an overview of his background which included his experience as a professor in Pittsburgh, PA.

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Director Lorraine Smith, Deputy Director Frances Jordan

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Secretary Roberts called roll and presented the September 2011 Minutes for approval.

Commissioner McClendon moved that the September minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Kohen seconded. September Minutes were approved.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Director Smith reported \$10,732.95 as the Donations Account beginning balance; no activity.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Palmer tabled his report until the "For Action" vote. The "For Action" item – "Liaison Selections" was moved up on the agenda since Chairperson Palmer had to leave the meeting early.

#### **FOR ACTION: Liaison Selections:**

Based upon conversations with commissioners and their liaison preferences, Director Smith provided the Commission with several recommendations for liaison positions. Regarding the Commission's CAMEO (Columbus Area Multi-Ethnic Organization) liaison, Commissioner Lewis is willing to serve in that capacity while Commissioner Baker-Ipek will become the liaison for the Interfaith Forum in Commissioner Lewis's place. Commissioner Marak will take Commissioner Baker-Ipek's place as liaison for Pride Alliance. Commissioner Roberts volunteered to serve as back-up in the event Commissioner Baker-Ipek cannot make the meeting times for the Interfaith Forum meetings, which are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 11:30 am-1:00 pm.

Commissioner Kohen volunteered to assist Commissioner Marak with orienting him with the Pride Alliance group as he served as liaison for Pride Alliance.

Commissioner Carter moved to accept the proposed liaison selections with the stipulation that Director Smith will contact the Pride Alliance organization and will inform them of the liaison changes and that the back-up commissioner, Commissioner Roberts, will assume the liaison position for Interfaith Forum if the meeting times are not feasible for Commissioner Baker-Ipek per Director Smith's conversation with Commissioner Baker-Ipek. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Palmer. Item passed unanimously.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Palmer informed the Commission about debates between the mayoral candidates, and suggested to the other commissioners to attend the last two debates before the election for their personal education. Chairperson Palmer also discussed a meeting at IUPUC regarding the Diversity Council and determining the details of the MLK Breakfast.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Smith informed the commissioners that the office has been busy with intakes, filings, respondent interviews, and technical assistance. Also discussed was the success of the 'Pressure Cooker' movie event, presented in collaboration with CAMEO, BCSC and Columbus Regional Hospital's REACH program. Director Smith also informed the Commissioners about the conversation she and Chairperson Palmer had with Luke Visconti about his prospect of coming to Columbus as the Commission's 2012 keynote speaker. She is also continuing conversations with Tracy Souza and the Heritage Fund regarding potential contributions from community foundations toward the Annual Dinner keynote speaker.

#### **LEGAL UPDATE:**

Because of lateness in time, the Legal Update was tabled.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

No reports.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Roberts moved that the meeting be adjourned at 5:32 pm. Commissioner Carter seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.